

White House to press Saudi arms sale

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Tuesday welcomed Saudi Arabia's decision to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and said it would press ahead with a planned \$450 million military sale to the kingdom. White House spokesman Martin Firsov refused to say when the administration would send Congress a 30-day formal notification of the proposed sale of military equipment to the Saudis, including ground support systems for Saudi aircraft and early warning and surveillance system (AWACS). "We're not ready to say just yet when we will," said Firsov, told reporters. Under U.S. law, the administration must notify Congress of all significant arms sales and legislators can attempt to defeat it if they wish. A congressional aide told Reuters earlier Tuesday the administration was to have delivered the notification Monday but had delayed the move amid opposition in Congress linked to a Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles. The aide said the notification was expected later this week. (See page 5)

The last letter Hitler's wife wrote to him before she committed suicide in April 1945 has been sold at auction for a few thousand dollars. In her letter, Hitler's wife said: "Our love ... my last offering ... a few things ... sister in the neck ... gave me for the funeral ... he believes a hope ... but now I let go ... A widow which Hitler also caused ... Munich 17,000 ... for 44

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جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة مطبوعة بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Paris denies Iran loan report

PARIS (R) — France denied Tuesday that it had repaid part of a \$1 billion loan from Iran or that talks on the issue were linked to efforts to free three French hostages held in Beirut. Responding to a newspaper report that a repayment had been made, a Finance Ministry official said: "Nothing has been paid recently, there have been no new developments." The well-informed satirical weekly *Canard Enchaîné* said Tuesday that France had made a second payment of \$300 million to Iran in December that year. It was made by the French to the International Energy Commission in 1974. Repayment of the loan has been one of Iran's main demands since 1979 revolution. Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's right-wing government announced soon after its election in 1986 that it had authorised an initial repayment of \$330 million but says it has made no further repayments. The *Canard Enchaîné* said a second instalment was paid as part of an attempt to win the release of French diplomats Marcel Caron and Marcel Fontaine and journalists Jean-Paul Kauffmann, kidnapped in Beirut in 1985. Chirac has said France will not pay ransom for the hostages and will not negotiate with terrorists.

S. Arabia breaks ties with Iran

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia announced Tuesday it was breaking diplomatic ties with Iran and asked all Iranian diplomats to leave the kingdom within a week. The announcement, read over the state-run television, said the rupture resulted from several things. Among them were a riot by Iranians during a pilgrimage to Mecca last year and a subsequent attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran, it said. An informed source in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Saudi council of ministers made the decision at a meeting Monday night.

... for 44

U.S. envoy seeks Taba compromise

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S. mediator sought a compromise Tuesday to a six-year-old dispute between Israel and Egypt over control of a Red Sea beach strip, an Israeli foreign ministry official said. Retired Judge Abraham Sofar, Washington's legal expert on the dispute over the Israeli-held Taba beach strip, met Israeli officials. He was due to travel to Cairo Tuesday and return later in the week to Israel.

Beirut bomb injures six

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb rocked a crowded area of west Beirut Tuesday, wounding six people, including four children, a security source said. The bomb, made from a bundle of dynamite sticks, exploded near a pharmacy in the busy residential and commercial Barbour area at 2:35 p.m., he added. There were no further details on the blast, which came four days after a powerful car bomb in the northern port town of Tripoli killed 70 people and wounded more than 100.

Iran claims success in militia mediation

BEIRUT (R) — A Shi'ite official said Tuesday mediation efforts by a senior Iranian cleric to end hostilities among Lebanon's Shi'ite militias had eased tension.

"The talks have been successful in easing tension between the two Shi'ite warring factions," the official with links to the Iranian embassy said about the mission of Iranian envoy Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, who arrived in Beirut April 19, set up a five-man committee to look into battles between Syrian-backed Amal militia and pro-Iranian Hizbullah, Jannati held talks Monday with Nabih Berri, leader of Amal militia, as part of his mediation efforts.

Soviet population tops 285 million

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet population has increased by 44 million over the past decade to reach 282.5 million, the official TASS news agency said Tuesday.

Soviet population figures are updated regularly, based on birth and death registrations. TASS said the first nationwide census since 1970 would be carried out from January 12-19 next year, with new questions on housing conditions, birth rates and infant mortality rates.

Britain wants Algeria to sign hijack treaty

LONDON (AP) — Britain urged

Israel launches bureaucratic bid to quell uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — New Israeli attempts to break the Palestinian uprising could temporarily block thousands of residents in the occupied Gaza Strip from reaching jobs, U.N. officials and news reports said Tuesday.

2 Israeli soldiers, 3 commandos killed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Israeli soldiers and three Palestinian commandos were killed in a clash inside Israel early Tuesday, according to reports from Israel and South Lebanon.

According to Lebanese sources, the Palestinians were on a suicide mission from South Lebanon.

In Tel Aviv, an army spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were killed and two wounded in the pre-dawn clash during which the commandos fired an anti-tank missile and hurled hand grenades just inside Israel's border.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq warns Iran against shelling

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq accused Iran of violating the unofficial truce in the "war of the cities" several times in the past few days. The Tuesday military communiqué said: "These violations must not continue without a massive retaliation... the Iranian regime must realise this and its consequences."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz had sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar informing him of Iranian truce violations during the previous four days.

Iraq said Tuesday that Iraq's reported test launching of a new ground-to-ground missile showed the superpowers wanted more bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq war.

A commentary on Tehran Radio said it was not clear if the Iraqi claim was true, but it still showed "the superpowers have taken their hostility against the Muslim people of Iran to the extreme and want more bloodshed and crime..."

The radio said Iranians should take the war with Iraq more seriously and men should volunteer for combat in greater numbers to win more quickly.

Iraq said Monday it had successfully tested a locally-made missile with a range of 900 kilometres.

A military official quoted by the INA said the new weapon was an improvement on a previous model of which Baghdad has fired about 190 at Tehran and other population centres since late February.

The prime minister, who polled a disappointing 19.95 per cent in Sunday's first round, ruled out any formal deal with National

Cyprus casts cloud over 'spirit of Davos'

ANKARA (R) — Bitter wrangling over divided Cyprus is threatening to wipe out goodwill generated between NATO members Turkey and Greece since their historic rapprochement in January, political sources said Tuesday.

They said reconciliation efforts, after three decades of enmity over Cyprus and Aegean sea rights, were faltering and that action was needed to sustain the fragile "spirit of Davos."

Turkey Monday refused to attend a meeting of the European Community's (EC) association council in Luxembourg after Greece persuaded its EC partners to include a reference to Cyprus in the opening address.

The breakaway Turkish republic of North Cyprus this month ordered visitors from the Greek Cypriot south to show passports and have them stamped, in a move to demonstrate its independence which only Ankara recognises.

"I hope so" was Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's cautious reply when Reuters asked if rapprochement could be kept on track.

This contrasted with euphoria after his initial talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou in Davos, Switzerland.

Theodoros Pangalos, Greece's minister for EC affairs, told reporters in Luxembourg that Turkey's refusal to take part in formal economic talks with the community Monday evening was unacceptable.

Pangalos said: "Turkey has difficulty understanding how we work in the community. It is not acceptable to say you will not listen. That is undemocratic. You can say you do not accept it, but you do not have the right to tell the other side what it can and cannot say."

The new moves in Gaza came as police arrested more than a dozen Palestinian merchants in Arab Jerusalem in an effort to end a commercial strike ordered by underground leaders of the nearly five-month-old Palestinian uprising.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza said Tuesday the army was blocking hundreds of residents from reaching jobs in Israel by confiscating their ID cards and ordering them to go through lengthy checks at three offices before returning them.

"Lines of hundreds of people are standing in front of these offices," said the spokeswoman, Christine Dabagh. She said the measures were first applied to residents of three refugee camps but seemed aimed at the general population.

Israeli Television said the programme was aimed at breaking a tax boycott that had been a tactic of the Palestinian uprising.

The daily Jerusalem Post said tens of thousands of people could be restricted to Gaza under the measures.

Iraqi censors delayed reports of the clash for several hours.

(Continued on page 5)

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The desert blooms

The Jordanian government is encouraging the private sector to invest in agricultural projects in the southern part of the Kingdom in order to reduce its imports of agricultural products and revive the semi-arid area. Jordan Times reporter Salameh Ne'matt visited Wadi Rum in an attempt to assess the progress of pioneers in this direction. This is the first of a three-part series on the subject.

IT WAS during the winter of 1979-80 that an archaeological and epigraphic survey of Jordan's southern desert discovered the first of what has proved to be an abundant hoard of ancient rock drawings and inscriptions. The enormous number of these finds reveals that an area once considered totally barren is, in fact, full of graphic evidence of man's response to his environment. The survey team now is quite sure that about 2,000 years ago the region was demographically very different, and that the rock graffiti was largely the work of people living in settled communities rather than that of desert nomads.

Today, about 2,000 years later, a group of private entrepreneurs are embarking on a mission that may eventually reverse the process and transform this stark, spectacular, and harshly arid land into a hospitable region where human life can prosper, again.

A handful of private sector farming companies have decided to take up the challenge and make this arid region productive, perhaps for the first time in hundreds of years. They are, in effect, making the desert bloom.

The government is encouraging private firms to develop state-owned land and thereby increase agricultural output and animal wealth in return for pledges to facilitate their endeavours and offer them incentives.

The Ministry of Agriculture has been leasing land to private companies for a nominal annual fee to encourage these firms to develop that land for a period extending 25 years. The ministry also offers a two year grace period to allow these companies

economic development as a whole and will also stem desertification.

The presence of underground water in the Disi and Sahl Al Suwayan regions encouraged the government to embark on these projects. Altogether, the government hopes to develop 200,000 dunums of semi-desert land in the first stage.

The government stipulated that the leased land should be used for raising livestock, growing crops, animal feed and cereals, but it is up to the investors to determine the amount of land for each purpose.

The Rum Agricultural Company is one of the pioneer firms operating in the Wadi Rum area. The company is one of the first to take up the challenge — against rough terrain, government bureaucracy and rigid laws — to produce at rates that make their work worthwhile.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, state-owned land can be leased to individuals, companies, cooperative societies or other institutions approved by the government and all can enjoy the incentives, exemptions and services offered by the ministry. But those who undertake the development of agricultural land cannot recompensate the work to others or use the land for other purposes throughout the lease term.

The government charges investors 100 fils per dunum per year throughout the period of the lease reaching 25 years.

Government started the scheme

Ground water in Wadi Rum was discovered in Jordan in the early sixties. Through the Ministry of Agriculture, the government established 20 years ago Al Disi farming project after digging 500 metres apart.

Iyad Abu Ali, deputy farm manager says that when the company he joined first took over the project from the government, "little did we know that there was more work that remained to be done than meets the eye." He explained that storage rooms, farming equipment and water wells needed improvement and

The Rum Agricultural Com-

pany has leased 50,000 dunums and has cultivated more than half of this space in the Manashir and the Suwayan areas which are 20 kilometres apart.

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enough water, comes the problem of providing adequate energy to keep all the equipment running and everything in working order.

According to Affouneh, the most formidable task in the process of reclaiming the land was building the infrastructure and maintaining the ground water wells in good working order.

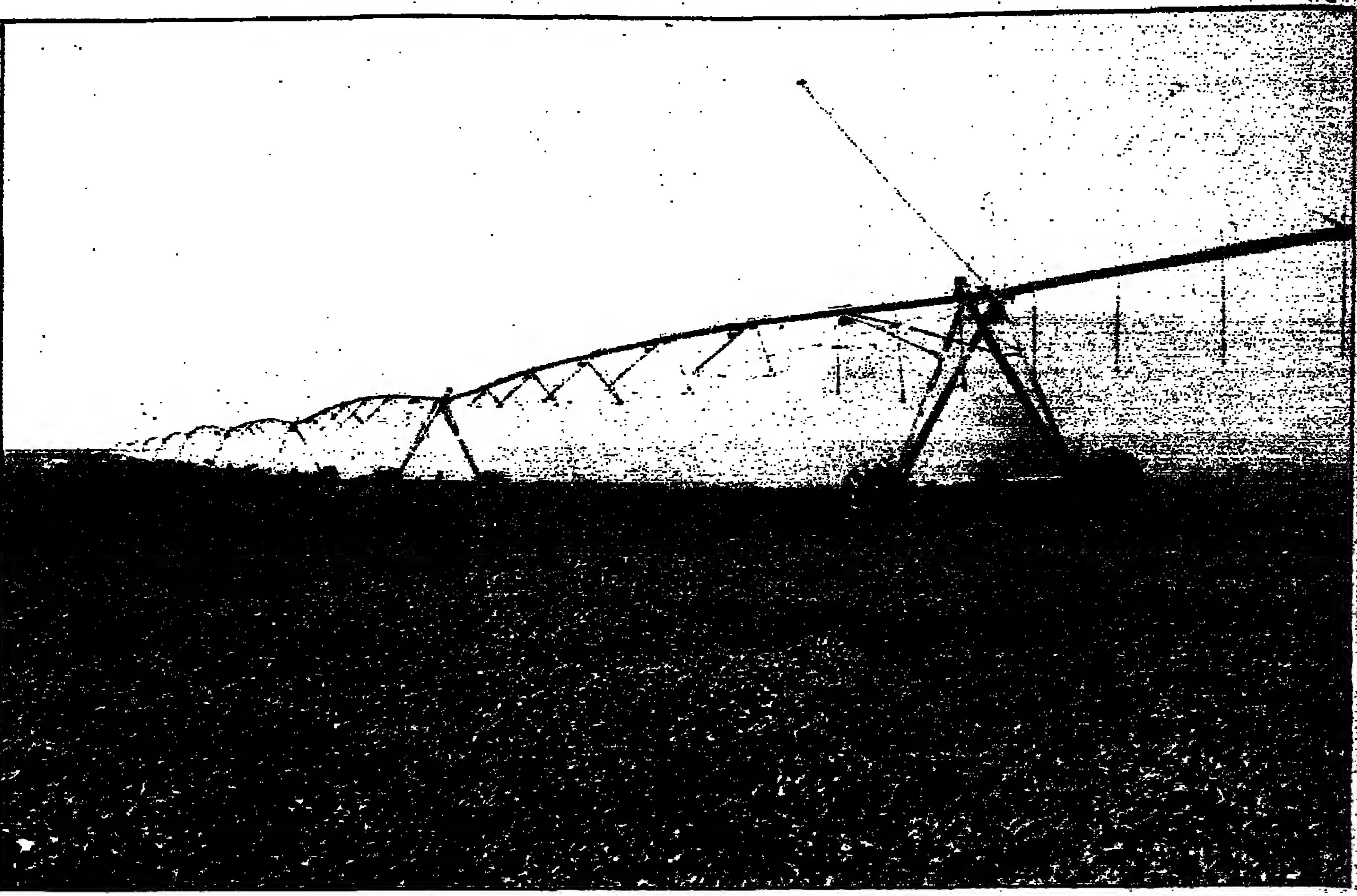
Most of the company's maintenance work is done on the project site itself with experienced mechanics and technicians ready at hand 24 hours in the case of an emergency. "We cannot afford to wait for a technician to come from Amman or Aqaba."

Electricity for the project is sold to the company based on industrial rates. Most of the equipment, such as tractors and other farming vehicles, are imported from the United States or Europe.

The company has embarked on a new project of cultivating land for the production of fruit trees such as apples, grapes, peaches, apricot and nectarin. The newly-cultivated area covers 5,000 dunums.

The process of cultivating the land is not easy: A bulldozer ploughs the designated land at a depth of 1.5 metres in a crisscross manner. The soil is then turned upside down with the use of equipment designed for this purpose, before the soil is washed so that salts go down and the process of desalination is completed. Finally comes the levelling down of the land for irrigation purposes.

The project director explained that after the problem of securing



The central pivot system, the latest in irrigation technology that fights the desert

(Photos by Salameh Ne'matt)

panies to increase the yield of certain farm products cultivated in the Wadi Rum area. These consultancy firms train Jordanian engineers, technicians, operators and irrigators.

The central pivot irrigation sys-

tem is a new method in Jordan which is widely used some parts of the United States and in Saudi Arabia.

The project's main duty is to

gradually reduce the quantities of Jordan's imports from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey.

In the Manashir and Suwayan areas, 15,000 dunums of wheat were cultivated last year with an average of 4.6 tonnes of wheat per hectare with an expectation of

eventually increasing the production to seven tonnes per hectare. This year 15,200 dunums were cultivated with wheat which are expected to produce six tonnes per hectare due to a better water situation. The same applies to the potato produce.

Such projects are expected to

gradually reduce the quantities of Jordan's imports from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey.

The Rum Agricultural Com-

pany has employed the services of consultant companies to explore

One of the main features of the project is the central pivot irrigation system used at the Manashir and Suwayan projects as well as other projects in Mudawwara. Each system covers 50 hectares (about 600 dunums).

In Manashir and Suwayan there are about 38 central pivots that operate on electricity supplied by the Jordan Electricity Authority.

Demonstrating the effectiveness of the central pivot system, Abu Ali said that his company used to produce 300 kilogrammes of wheat per dunum of rain-fed land compared to an expected 700 kilogrammes per dunum with the central pivot system, which guarantees better production through the utilisation of scientific irrigation methods and the proper use of fertilisers. The harvesting of wheat begins near the end of May and early June.

The Rum Agricultural Company employs nearly 150 workers while an affiliate company operating in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, employs about 1,200 workers.

The project director explained that after the problem of securing

enough water, comes the problem of providing adequate energy to keep all the equipment running and everything in working order.

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**PSD to use
helicopters
to monitor
traffic,
borders**

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) plans to use helicopters for monitoring traffic and border areas, and is currently recruiting staff to operate these services, according to PSD's Director General Abdul Majali Al Majali.

Majali was quoted by Al Dustour Arabic daily as saying also that the PSD is now involved in a campaign to end the presence of beggars from Jordan's cities and towns, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Greater Amman Municipality.

He said the beggars are not apprehended but their cases are being studied to find solutions for their problems.

Proper assistance will be found for the needy people who take to the streets, in cooperation with the concerned departments, Majali noted.

He said the PSD is also active in preventing street vendors from congesting streets, and has arranged with the municipality to offer them a plot of land to peddle their goods.

A recent campaign to remove vendors resulted in the apprehension of 900 of them, of whom 300 proved to be non-Jordanians and will be ordered to leave the country, Majali noted.

According to Majali the Mabatta Prison will be closed down in a few months once the Swaqa model rehabilitation and reformatory centre has been completed.

He said that PSD has set up seven committees to help stem juvenile delinquency, and it will be working closely with higher national committee for combatting crime.



Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday handed two cheques with the total amount of JD 166,000 (Petra photo)

Education Ministry staff, teachers donate JD 166,000 to Zakat Fund

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has received JD 166,000 in donations from Ministry of Education staff and teachers and students in various governorates.

The contributions will be handled by the Ministry of Awqaf's Zakat Fund which distributes cash to the poor and provides financial help to the victims of Israel's atrocities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi handed Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat two cheques one for JD 107,000, raised from a deduction of a day's pay from the salaries of Ministry of Education employees, and the other for JD 59,000 raised in individual contributions by teachers and students in various

regions.

The contributions were made in response to a government decision to deduct the day's pay from all employees' salaries, so that the Zakat Fund can have sufficient cash to offer to the families of the dead, the wounded and the jailed people in the occupied territories.

The order was prompted by the going-uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordanian expatriates have been allowed to join in July 1986 on an optional basis and Jordana

nian farmers and merchants can now benefit from the SSC law if they so desire, Farhan noted.

Farhan said that before the application of the law workers were given a lump sum compensation upon the termination of their work and were not covered in any way for occupational injury or death, and never dreamed of receiving pension after reaching old age.

He said that under the SSC covered only 37,000 workers, but this number of workers has increased so quickly in view of the benefits offered by the corporation; and also the number of institutions have increased by 42 times by April 1988," Farhan noted.

He said that the SSC makes it imperative on different government departments, universities, companies, banks, municipalities and other institutions to include their workers of any nationality in the scheme, entitling them to benefit from its advantages.

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total of JD 7,351,000 in monthly salaries to beneficiaries, and that the average monthly salaries paid to these beneficiaries stand at JD 250,000.

He said these beneficiaries include those who reached the retirement age, families of dead persons, and workers who sustained occupational injuries or disabilities.

The expatriates are now paying premiums through Jordanian embassies in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, Farhan said.

The SSC invests the premiums in development and economic schemes to generate income and meet its commitments, according to Farhan.

He said that workers pay only five per cent of their salaries while their organisations pay 15 per cent. But this money is accumulated into large sums that are being invested for the benefit of all workers in the public and private sectors.

These investments also help to bolster the national economy and open more opportunities for profits that eventually benefit all sectors, Farhan noted.

SSC investments

SSC funds, he said, have been invested in major industrial, touristic, housing and economic projects in the Kingdom. Among these are: The Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the White Cement Factory, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company, and Jordanian banks and financial institutions.

The SSC owns and operates three major hotels: Amra, Petra and Aqaba, and 19 resthouses in main touristic sites.

In addition, Farhan said, the SSC offers loans for housing projects, carried out by organisations and companies, and has bought government bonds which yield large amounts of interest.

NHF embarks on bee-breeding project

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has embarked on a bee-breeding project in cooperation with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and a local vocational training corporation in the Karak region.

A JCO official here said that the project, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, is being supervised by a local women's society which markets its production.

The official said that the project is part of JCO's activities to stimulate the role of rural women in socio-economic development in the southern regions of the country.

The project has been provided with equipment for breeding bees and producing honey, and a team

of technicians and workers are now being recruited to operate the project, the official said.

The project, he said, is being set up on a state-owned land of 21 dunums.

In Ajloun, another JCO official Atallah Sarhan said bee-breeders in the Ajloun district have formed a society and are cooperating with the JCO to produce honey.

The JCO is providing lectures and instructions to the farmers on the most proper manner to produce honey and to market the product.

So far 450 farmers have joined the society and are benefiting from their cooperation in this field.

It said that there had been no indication yet about the possibility of contacting the disease through mere contact, swimming pools or breathing, use of clothes and insect bites.

According to the pamphlets the number of world AIDS victims is on the increase, and according to World Health Organisation's (WHO) statistics nearly 72,000 AIDS cases exist in 151 countries around the world.

The pamphlets said that Jordan does not import any blood from any source and that the country has a few cases of AIDS carriers.

Earlier this month a national committee charged with taking measures for combating AIDS held its first meeting and reviewed steps taken for spreading

tions with infected persons and through blood transfusion.

It said that there had been no indication yet about the possibility of contacting the disease through mere contact, swimming pools or breathing, use of clothes and insect bites.

The committee group representatives of the ministries of Health, Education, Interior, Information, Higher Education, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the Public Security Department, the Bar Association, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the General Federation of Jordanian Women.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who addressed the meeting said that the campaign against AIDS should not remain the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Health.

The Health Ministry last year reported the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan of which eight were Jordanians, three of whom died in January this year.

Beggar leaves behind a fortune

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 90-year-old woman who died recently has left behind JD 86,000, collected through begging during her lifetime, and the local courts are involved in the process of distributing her inheritance to her relatives.

The report said that the Islamic

Chief Justice was called on to offer help in solving the problem, and he had referred the case to the Islamic Court in Shmeisani which will examine the whole case and decide on the distribution of the money at a session to be held on May 26.

The report said that the Islamic

115.3 million cubic metres of water stored behind dams

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) announced Tuesday that a total of 115.3 million cubic metres of water are now stored behind the country's dams.

The JVA secretary general said that the recent rains brought about 6.6 million cubic metres to the King Talal Dam, 19.5 million to the Wadi Al Arab Dam, 4.8 million to Kafraim Dam, 3.4 million to Sharhibil Dam and 2 million cubic metres of water to Wadi Shueib Dam.

He said that the huge quantities of water indicate that the coming agricultural season will be excellent.

The water of the dams normally irrigate lands in the Jordan Valley during the dry season.

Water in the Wadi Al Arab Dam, in the northern Jordan Valley Region, will be used for irrigation, more than 40,000 dunums of land in summer, according to the Wadi Al Arab Dam's Director Bader Al Abbadi.

Murderer gets 15 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 20-year-old man identified as S.B.A. has been sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labour for committing a pre-meditated murder in February 1988, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said that the murderer had killed 25-year-old K.M.M. of Egyptian nationality and living in Irbid.

It said that the murderer had quarrelled with the Egyptian while on a tour of the Jordan Valley region near Irbid, and stabbed him several times.

pumped to the East Ghor Canal which in turn distributes it to the fields in the Jordan Valley in the dry season.

Abdah noted that a power station, set up near the dam site, is now generating 370 kilowatts per hour. It has been linked to the national grid and is supplying northern Jordan Valley regions with electricity.

The water, he said, is being

the pest is being fought off by the Saudi authorities.

Contacts are now underway

between the Ministry of Agriculture and a regional centre for combating locusts in Jeddah which is providing the necessary information about the movement of the pests, Lawzi pointed out.

Lawzi said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the government has allocated sufficient funds and purchased the required equipment and material to eliminate the pest in large scale operations.

The source of the locusts is Africa, and reports indicate that swarms of the pest have already invaded Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Some have crossed the Red Sea and settled in areas in north Saudi Arabia bordering on Jordan, Lawzi noted.

He said that swarms of locusts have been spotted in Tabuk and Kriyat, in Saudi Arabia, and that

"Surveillance operations will continue at least until the end of

the coming month because the

movements of locusts normally

take place during springtime," Lawzi said.

He appealed to the members of

the public, especially residents

near the Saudi Arabian border to report any movement of locusts in their areas.

Earlier, Sawt Al Shaab Arabic

daily reported that the Ministry of Agriculture received information from Saudi Arabia that

swarms of locusts have actually invaded Jordanian territory and that all preparations were taken to fight off the pest.

It said the Ministry of Agriculture had received a letter from the regional office in Jeddah informing him of the latest movements of locusts which had invaded Saudi Arabian territory from Africa.

Jordan's last serious locust invasion was in 1958-59 when the insects devastated crops in the Jordan Valley.

Furthermore, the minister said,

the government will issue two periodicals covering cultural

themes one of which will tackle children's literature.

Hammouri said the Ministry of

Culture will entrust a number of

writers and literary men to write

on specific subjects and will sell the books at nominal prices to encourage more people to read.

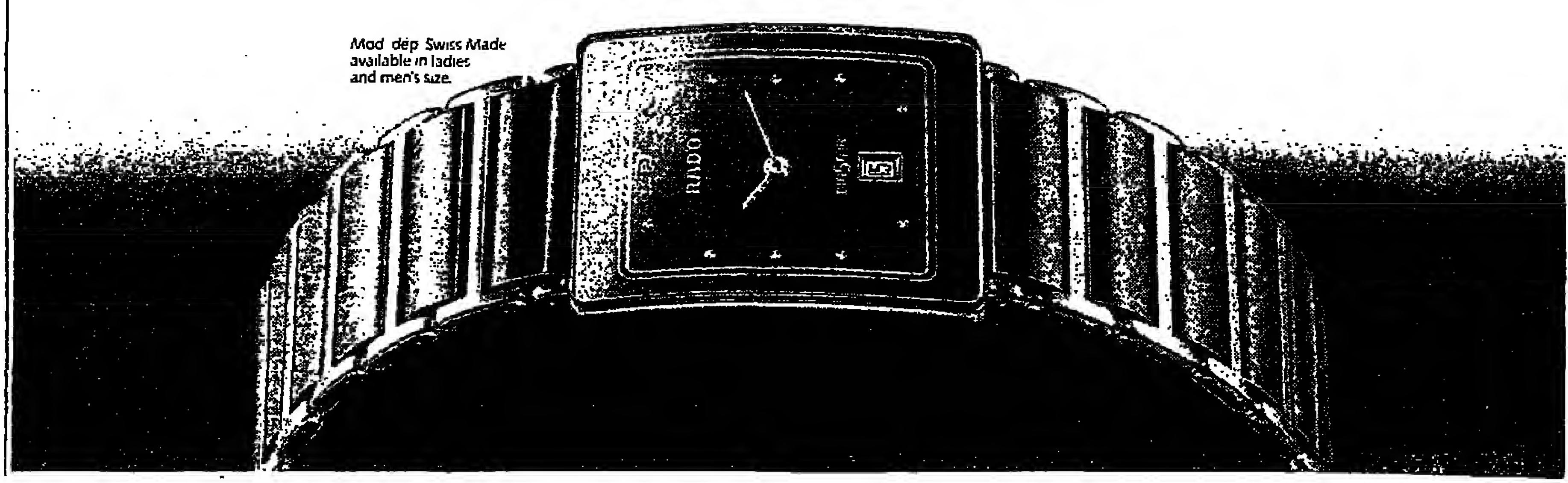
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Time to push

HAVING tried in vain almost every trick in the book of violent oppression to quell the Palestinian uprising, Israel has now turned its hand to a systematic bureaucratic campaign to inflict as much damage as possible to the economic fabric of Palestinian life in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Dozens of shopkeepers have been arrested for their refusal to abide by the occupation army's orders to open and close at dictated hours other than called for by the leadership of the uprising and wholesale traders who supply most of the essential goods to the West Bank have been closed down. The first question that emerges is since when does any power have any authority to order shops opened or closed? But then we might be overlooking the very reality that things are not done by the Zionists the way they are done elsewhere in the world.

At the same time, the occupation authorities might be doing a service to the Palestinian uprising by confiscating identity cards of Gazans in a clear move to block their means of making a livelihood since it also means that many Israeli industries are deprived of the cheap labour they used to enjoy. It is only typical of the short-term vision of the Israeli leaders which is only too evident in their entire outlook towards addressing the core issues involved.

However, the Israeli move to choke off material support for the Palestinians in the occupied territories from the outside is taking its slow toll, according to reports from the West Bank and Gaza. That is indeed a very disturbing development since the steadfastness of the Palestinian people cannot forever be maintained on empty stomachs no matter how strong the resolve for liberation and freedom. It might look well in theory that people do have to pay a very high price for liberation, but human nature tells us differently. The situation in the occupied territories may not have reached that stage yet, but it is not too far round the corner unless the Arab World comes up with innovative programmes to circumvent the impact of the overbearing Israeli campaign. The time is here and now to push with all the Arab might and resources to ensure that the heavy price that the Palestinian people are paying in the 20-week-old uprising will not be outbidded by the occupation power's cunningness.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peres ambiguous document

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has prepared a political document which he says will form the framework of his Labour Party's programme in the coming parliamentary elections. In this document, Peres included ambiguous words about withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and acceptance of a settlement with the Arabs. But in essence it reflects the Likud block's programme and appears to be aiming to achieve its goals, since it is designed to achieve Zionism's objectives. It is difficult to say that Peres's document was in conflict with the ideas of Shamir who leads the Likud, and it is hard to say that both men are in disagreement on the declared or undeclared objectives of world Zionism. Both Labour and Likud are in agreement that there can be no room for any political moves to solve the problem with the Arabs as long as Israel is militarily powerful to impose its domination and its will on them. In Israel's views, questions related to security and peace and settlements with the Arabs can only be decided on by Zionism, and that there can be no solution for the Middle East issue upon the assumption that the Palestine problem is the core of that issue. In fact, the Labour Party's principles call for continued occupation and continued domination of Arab areas and for military and political power for Israel to confront any eventuality. Peres's document therefore is another evidence of the true aggressive nature of Israel's leaders, reflected in their election programmes.

Al Dustour: Israel's harsh measures

ISRAEL, following in the steps of all previous invaders of the Arab region, is maintaining its oppressive and terrorist measures against the Arab population under its rule. It is going ahead with measures to stifle the uprising of the Palestinian people who are seeking freedom and an end to occupation. Despite the fact that all these practices have so far failed to stop the uprising which is almost five months old, the Israelis are resorting to more brutal measures to try to end the revolt which is spreading and widening all the time. Following the policy of starving the Arab population and imposing a siege on one and a half million people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the course of the new policy. This collective punishment has so far failed to achieve any result, thanks to the solid and firm will and determination of the Arab people in the occupied areas. We follow with a feeling of pride reports about the heroic stand of the Arab population in the face of Israel's atrocities; and we are confident that in the end this steadfast people will come out victorious.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unity of ranks

JORDAN welcomes the Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement because it believes that only through unity of ranks can the Arab Nation strengthen itself and confront the different challenges. Only through unity of ranks can the Arabs confront Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and Iran's aggression on Iraq. This unity is needed now to support the Palestinian people's uprising against Israeli oppression and to help bring about a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is needed to help the Arabs regain their lost territory and the Palestinians achieve their national objectives. For this reason, Jordan was quick to declare its support for the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation and for this reason this country will continue to adhere to its principles as contained in the six-point document handed to the U.S. secretary of state. Jordan hopes that a united Arab front will help convene an international conference on the Palestinian question and enable the Palestinians to establish their legitimate rights in their own homeland.

Uprising casts shadow over Israel's 40th anniversary

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM —

The Arab uprising has cast a shadow over Israel's yearlong 40th anniversary bash, with American director Woody Allen, poet Allen Ginsberg and tennis ace Chris Evert among celebrities who turned down invitations.

Israeli organisers hope to stem the wave of cancellations by assuring reluctant guests that the Arab-Israeli conflict will be a central theme and that they are free to criticise Israel.

Some Israelis consider the nos-

shows another slap in the face to a nation that throughout its short history has often found itself isolated and a target of international criticism.

But others said they won't let it spoil the party.

"You have seen the people of Israel truly rejoice, going out for picnics, going out into the streets," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's aide, Avi Pazner, referring to last week's independence day celebrations. "Nobody can take that away."

Organisers said many big names remained on the guest list, including American movie director Robert Wise and Indian-born Zubin Mehta, conductor of both the New York and Israel philharmonic orchestras.

Israeli organisers had planned an impressive lineup of poetry readings, film festivals and theatre performances as highlights of Israel's 40th anniversary celebration.

But in the midst of preparations, the Arab uprising erupted five months ago, and televised images of Israeli soldiers beating and breaking the bones of Arab youths and razing houses sparked an international outcry. More than 170 Arabs were killed by the Israeli troops in the uprising.

No to state terror

"We are in a war, and it hurts everything, our celebration, our economy, tourism, our feelings," said Yakov Agmon, the chief coordinator of the anniversary festival.

Ginsberg suffered a major setback last week when five Israeli poets organising one of the main events, the international poetry week, withdrew their support and called on fellow artists to boycott the June festival.

"A government that demolishes civilian houses... and kills youths in what can only be termed state terror is not worthy to have poets come to a government-sponsored festival," said Natan Zach, a founding father of modern Hebrew poetry who lives in Haifa.

Agmon initially wanted to cancel the festival, but then asked his staffers to poll the invited poets — 80 Israelis and 35 foreigners — to see if there was enough support to go ahead. He said he would make a decision later this month.

He would not give names of poets who turned down invitations, but two of the most prominent, Ginsberg and Soviet poet

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, said they would not attend.

Ginsberg said in New York he initially accepted, hoping to use the festival as a "protest for peace," but later withdrew in solidarity with Zach's decision.

Organisers of other festivals also said many international artists were torn about whether to attend.

"We got a lot of letters from film directors who said, 'how can we come to Israel and talk about movies when people get murdered?'" said Nili Miller, spokeswoman for the weeklong international student film festival, scheduled for May.

Political reasons

Miller said organisers had accepted 150 film schools to submit contributions, and 45 accepted while 50 of the refusals cited political reasons.

To overcome such reservations, organisers decided on a 32-hour retrospective of films on the Arab-Israeli conflict, which becomes the centrepiece of the festival.

As a result, several prestigious contributors, including the London International Film School, agreed to attend. "They now have a feeling that they're not just coming to talk about art, but to get involved," Miller said.

But others, like Allen, turned down the invitation.

Allen did not give a reason, but Miller suggested his refusal was politically motivated. Earlier this year, Allen, who is Jewish, sharply

criticised Israeli policies in a letter to The New York Times.

Evert and fellow tennis star Brad Gilbert pulled out of a May tennis benefit tournament for a Jerusalem hospital.

"Ms. Evert decided to withdraw mainly because of the political problems," said hospital spokesman Rami Sadan, who cancelled the tournament.

Some entertainers have chosen another way.

Theatre du Soleil, a Paris-based avant-garde troupe, agreed to attend this summer's Israel festival, an annual performing arts extravaganza, after telling organisers it would first publish a statement about its political views in Israeli newspapers.

In the half-page ad published April 15 in The Jerusalem Post newspaper, the group described the Arab uprising as justified, but also asserted Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

Pazner said he opposed attempts to encourage political debate to assuage the liberal conscience of VIPs.

"It is wrong to turn a national celebration into a political event," Pazner told the AP. "The Israeli people want to rejoice without politics."

He lashed out at local artists criticising Israel, calling them "a small minority of pseudo-intellectuals who believe self-hatred is the answer to the problems of the Jewish people."

Counterpoint Zach: "He is probably right if he means by self-hatred that we are having problems with our conscience."

Sudan: The heavy toll of civil war

By Tom Porteous

SUDAN'S civil war is on the move — northwards. It is no longer the isolated "southern problem" of which Khartoum spoke when the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) renewed the North-South conflict in 1983. Five years on the war is seriously undermining the political and economic stability of the Arab North, threatening to bring down the two year old coalition government of Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi. And there is no end in sight.

In Khartoum the ravages of war in the South are carved on the faces of the thousands of refugees who arrive each month, tired and hungry, escaping the dark turmoil of their war-torn villages and pasture lands. In the squallid *bidi-bidu* villages which have sprouted around the capital and other northern cities, these refugees eke out a meagre living at the bottom of an economic and social system already devastated by war and drought. There they join famine victims from the west and refugees from other droughts and other wars in northern Ethiopia and Chad.

For the poor and middle class Arabs of Khartoum the swelling shanty towns are just one reminder of distant war which is nonetheless taking an increasing toll on their daily life. Car owners queue for up to two days for their weekly ration of half a tank of petrol; roads are full of potholes; public transport is sporadic and overcrowded; electricity cuts are frequent and long; schools and hospitals are run down and ill-supplied. Like most goods, medicines are not available, except on the black market at inflated prices: The black market thrives on the war. Prices rise weekly. The vast influx of refugees, and the government's bankruptcy, keep wages down. Food riots are useful tools for competing political groups. In turn political groups, even those in power, are an easy prey for the influence of the black-marketeers.

In spite of emergency laws and regular police raids and roadblocks, smuggling, hoarding and robbery are on the increase. Even in Khartoum, gunfire is sometimes heard at night. In the provinces, particularly in the west where tribes have been armed by Libya's fighting against neighbouring Chad, the situation is worse. Khartoum newspapers say murderous bands of outlaws and robbers roam the western province of Darfur. But Southern politicians in the capital have another story, the Muslim, but non-Arab, peoples of Darfur and the Nuba mountains are throwing in their lot with the SPLA; they are on the brink of rebellion.

As the damaging effects of the war on the North became increasingly apparent at the end of last year, the SPLA leader, John Garang, played a masterful trick. In November his forces marched into the North, for the first time, and captured two villages near the Ethiopian border. The incursion was strategically unimportant, its main purpose was to win new recruits. But psychologically it was a masterpiece. There was

panic in Khartoum. Rival Northern political groups rose to the occasion, seeking to make political headway from the incident. The SPLA advance was represented as a slight on the integrity of the North, a threat to the hydro-electric power stations of Al-Damazin which supply Khartoum with electricity, a precursor of some future attack on the capital itself. Meanwhile the SPLA withdrew quietly, having made their point.

The disastrous effects of the war have increased the racial and religious tensions which underly the conflict. The Arab Muslims of the North regard the non-Arab, non-Muslim Southerners with suspicion, if not outright hatred, especially now that Southern refugees are overrunning their cities. The Southerners who have fled to the North are blamed for the deteriorating economic situation, for low wages and high rents, for overcrowded buses and hospitals. They are even accused of being the SPLA's fifth column, ready to turn against their Arab hosts as soon as the rebels give the word.

"Few Arab politicians are ready to recognise the just grievances of the rebels."

As such sentiments, fuelled by the SPLA's belligerence, gain ground among Sudanese Arabs, prospects for a negotiated political settlement recede. Few Arab politicians are ready to recognise or acknowledge the just grievances of the rebels who — on and off — have been fighting for an end to the traditional Arab dominance of the African South since independence in 1956. In government circles, the war is represented primarily as an external problem, the main cause of which is Ethiopia's support for the SPLA. The government's efforts to end the war therefore focus on seeking a dialogue with the Ethiopians, not on studying the demands of the SPLA, among which the abolition of *sharia* (Islamic law) is crucial.

Three years ago President Ja'far Numeiri was deposed after an uprising organised by the influential professional associations who are generally opposed to *sharia*, and in favour of a compromise with the SPLA. Numeiri's demise brought hope that Islamic law would be removed from the statutes and a settlement of the war negotiated.

One year later, the Koka Dam declaration, signed by the SPLA and Northern political groups, set this peace process in motion by calling for the establishment of a secular constitution. The following month Sudan's first democratic elections in 17 years brought Al Mahdi's coalition government to power. Today, almost two years later, the war is raging more fiercely than ever. Islamic law is still in force and the prime minister is under increasing pressure not to abolish it.

Most of the pressure to keep *sharia* comes from the Islamic Fundamentalist movement. The movement is nourished by the strong religious sentiments and polarisation aroused by the war, and perhaps by the conviction of

The NIF's ambitious and sophisticated leader, Hasan Al Turabi, has made the most of the present government's many blunders. Al Mahdi has lost the confidence of his coalition, his party and the country by his failure to tackle the war and the economy. He has alienated Sudan's foreign backers. He has angered the army by failing to give it adequate support in the South and by building up his own private militia. Sudanese complain that Al Mahdi's main occupation now is to try to justify his weak position and inconsistent policies in frequent rambling and contradictory speeches which no one wants to hear. On the other hand, Al Turabi (who is Al Mahdi's brother-in-law) has won solid support among the sectarian members of the Umma and the DUP opposed to secularism. He has a well studied and published political and economic programme. He has signalled his good intentions towards Egypt and Saudi Arabia which have been alarmed by Al Mahdi's flirtations with Libya and Iran. Most importantly, the NIF now has the support of many middle and high ranking army officers, including Abd Al Rahman Siwar Al Dhabab who led the transitional military council which handed power to Al Mahdi two years ago.

That a growing number of Sudanese appear to see the NIF as the answer to Sudan's pressing problems is an indication of how far the North and the South are drifting apart. The NIF is the last Northern party with which the SPLA, or any other representative Southern group, would be prepared to deal. "I'm in a position to compromise with Al Mahdi," one prominent Southern activist told me. "But never would I compromise with Turabi... Turabi spells disaster for Sudan." The NIF professes to be a party of religious tolerance and national unity. It proposes a federal constitution as the solution to the Southern question. As presented, the NIF's proposal is reasonable and enlightened. But there are few Southern politicians in Khartoum who do not believe that the ultimate aim of the NIF is to suppress the South into submission to Islam, that a peaceful settlement with the NIF would be out of the question.

It is perhaps no coincidence therefore that the rise of the fundamentalist movement in the North has been accompanied, in the last year, by growing demands from a few Northern political groups for partition. Observers saw the incident as a political manoeuvre designed to discredit the Left. As for the professional associations which brought down Numeiri, they are still popular, but lack a political platform.

Meanwhile, the NIF's extra-parliamentary activities — which include massive demonstrations in support of *sharia*, control of student unions, missionary and relief work, well-publicised conferences, and control of half of Khartoum's ten daily newspapers — give the fundamentalists a high profile and a wide audience for their frankly stated views.

"Sharia: it came with the people and with the people it will stay," read the fundamentalists' posters in Khartoum's dusty streets. In fact *sharia* was imposed by the faltering President Numeiri in a last ditch attempt to woo the Muslim Brotherhood in 1983. But given the religious mood of the North, the quasi-Islamic coalition government — the Umma and Democratic Unionist (DUP) parties which make up the coalition have their roots in the two religious sects, Ansar and *Khatmiyyah*, which have dominated Sudanese politics for more than a century — has not found the political will to abolish *sharia*.

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"We should not be afraid of institutions — they are not per se negative — for as long as our work in them is issue-oriented rather than aimed at simply keeping the party in power," he added.

The Italian Green Party was founded in 1984, much later than most of its European counterparts, but with ecology becoming more of an issue in Italy it managed to win seats in national

OPEN FORUM

Good news from Mafrag

THE trouble with good ideas is not having them, but using them. And in English language teaching in Jordan, there is no shortage of good ideas; indeed a wealth of excellent ideas for teaching and learning activities and practices is disseminated from the universities, the education directorates, and organisations like the British Council. But back in the classroom, with a text book to follow and exams on the horizon, teachers and students can be forgiven for wanting to play safe and stick to what they know. Although in general results are remarkably good, this can occasionally be boring for the students and frustrating for the teachers.

I saw no boredom or frustration or conservatism last Thursday afternoon in Mafrag. With my wife, the British Council's representative for English language teaching in Jordan, I was invited to visit an "English Camp" in Mafrag. With guidance from the Mafrag directorate supervisor of English, Mwafiq Al Zabi, a group of teachers and students had given up the last three days of their April holiday to simply enjoy

Middle East News

Arab-Americans still support Jackson despite some tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jesse Jackson appears to be retaining the support of his most loyal constituents, the Arab-Americans, despite upsetting many of them with his comment on the CBS broadcasting network that "There's still a great deal of spirit out there for Jesse," especially after Jackson modified his remarks on Arafat, said Abdene Jabra, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

Arab-Americans have contributed more than \$400,000 to Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign, including some \$90,000 raised Sunday at a private home in Washington, according to his key Arab affairs adviser James Zogby. A handful of fund-raising events are scheduled in coming weeks in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

And there are 43 Arabs and Muslims running to be Jackson delegates in California, according

to Salam Marayati of the Muslim Action Committee in Los Angeles.

Jackson appears to have

assured the concerns of some Arab supporters who were upset by his comment on the CBS

broadcasting network that "There's still a great deal of spirit out there for Jesse," especially after Jackson modified his remarks on Arafat, said Abdene Jabra, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

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Arab-Americans have contributed more than \$400,000 to Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign, including some \$90,000 raised Sunday at a private home in Washington, according to his key Arab affairs adviser James Zogby. A handful of fund-raising events are scheduled in coming weeks in California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

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Israel launches bureaucratic bid

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Television said the lines formed after the military government adopted a new policy, requiring Palestinians to pay all bills before granting them travel permits, driving licenses and other important documents.

Israel temporarily suspended the accreditation of two senior foreign correspondents Tuesday because they broke censorship in reporting that Israeli agents killed Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Yoram Ettinger, director of the government press office, said he summoned Glean Frankel of the Washington Post and Martin Fletcher of the NBC television network to tell them their press cards were suspended until the outcome of an investigation into the alleged censorship violation.

In Gaza City, hundreds of Palestinians lined up in front of the military government office to pay outstanding taxes and utility bills.

PLO, Syria agree on need to formulate joint political stand

(Continued from page 1)

focus of the talks had been the Palestinian uprising and the peace proposals presented by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. "We both agreed that the American moves were aimed at suffocating the uprising," said a Fatah official.

Both sides reviewed the American stand and moves since 1978 and concluded that there was no substantial change in the American position, the official said.

The official said the two sides had not formulated a joint strategy yet but had agreed on the basis of their positions on a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem.

The Arabs are seeking a United Nations sponsored international Middle East peace conference with complete powers on the basis of the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian officials said the PLO was willing to accept the Syrian idea of a joint Arab negotiating team to the suggested conference provided that the PLO will be represented on equal footing with all other parties.

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that these points would form the main elements of a joint Syrian-Palestinian stand during an emergency Arab summit expected to convene in

Crown Prince, Gandhi review Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan discussed this idea with a number of Indian business people who also welcomed the idea and called for widening scopes of cooperation in the field of economy.

Early Tuesday, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath visited the tomb of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi and the house and tomb of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Indian Vice-President Sankar Dayal Sharma and his wife hosted a banquet in honour of Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Monday night.

In a brief exchange at the banquet, Prince Hassan outlined Jordan's firm policy towards efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and praised Jordanian-Indian relations.

Sharma described the relation with Jordan as strong and long-standing and praised the role of the Arabic language and Arab culture in enriching the Indian culture. He also said that King Hussein's visit to India in 1986 contributed effectively to developing relations between the two countries. Sharma voiced his country's support of the just Arab cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and called for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

Algiers in the beginning of June.

PLO political department head Farouq Kaddoumi confirmed reports that the Arab summit could be preceded by a mini-summit to be held in Algiers or Tripoli in May attended by Assad, Arafat, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi. The last two leaders played a major role in bringing about the long-awaited Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

Meanwhile, Khaddoumi was expected to meet a Fatah delegation again Tuesday night to continue discussing unresolved issues.

According to Palestinian sources, Syria and Fatah still have to reach an agreement on relations with Egypt and the PLO's contacts with left-wing Israeli groups and to work out more detailed arrangements over the PLO's military presence in Lebanon.

The Fatah official and Khaddoum were also expected to discuss the possibility of reopening some PLO offices and institutions in Damascus. But, according to Kaddoumi, the present arrangement whereby the PLO maintains its headquarters in Tunis and offices in other Arab countries is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Palestinian sources said Fatah officials were also expected to raise the issue of 2,000 Palestinian political detainees in Syria. Syria still maintains its reservations over the PLO's contacts with Egypt but is not demanding that the PLO sever its relations with Cairo, the sources said.

"We both agree on the importance of returning Egypt to the Arab fold and oppose the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord," a Fatah official said.

But the main difference between the Fatah leadership and Syria is on policies that should be pursued to achieve these goals.

Syria insists that all contacts should be severed with Cairo unless Egypt abandons Camp David, while Fatah, or at least some of its leaders argue that the Egyptian people should not be ostracized. "I think that Syria and the PLO, and for that matter all Arabs, should find a formula which reconciles between the goal of abrogating Camp David without isolating the Egyptian people," the Fatah official said.

PLO officials reiterated that Syria agreed that Damascus did not have any veto over relations between the PLO and Arab countries provided that such relations are compatible with the common national goals and Arab consensus.

"In fact, we believe that the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation has opened the door for strengthening relations with Jordan," Kaddoumi said.

The Palestinian factions are also engaged in moves to resume

a dialogue between Fatah and three pro-Syrian groups which boycotted the last session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), held in April 1987.

According to Palestinian sources, leader of the Popular Struggle Front (PSF) Samir Ghoz met with Arafat Monday night along with a number of Fatah rebels.

The sources said that Arafat gave the Fatah rebels a warm reception.

Mondays Assad-Arafat meeting was welcomed by left-wing PLO factions, especially the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Communist Party.

"A reconciliation between Fatah and Syria is the key, and if that is achieved there will be no problems left," DFPL leader Naseef Hawatmeh said.

In Cairo, Egypt said Tuesday it hoped the Arafat-Assad meeting would help heal Arab rifts.

"Egypt is working for a unified Arab front," Taher Al Farnawi, head of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, told reporters.

"And on this basis, it welcomes the Palestinian-Syrian meeting if it will lead to coordination between them, regain Palestinian rights and reinforce their uprising," he added.

S. Arabia to sign non-proliferation pact

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia, recently armed with missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, is to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Tuesday the Saudi cabinet, at a meeting chaired by King Fahd, decided Riyadh should sign the non-proliferation pact. The cabinet met Monday night.

China confirmed in March that it had sold an undisclosed number of surface-to-surface missiles to Riyadh.

The Washington Post said at the time that the CSS2-class missiles had a range of 3,560 kilometers.

The Saudi purchase, seen by Gulf-based diplomats to be a warning to Iran not to extend its missiles beyond Iraqi targets, caused anger in Washington and concern in Israel.

On Monday, a bipartisan group of 187 U.S. House of Representatives members signed a letter opposing a U.S. arms sale to Riyadh because of the Chinese missiles deal. New York Congressman Charles Schumer said.

An Israeli official earlier hinted that Israel's armed forces might make a pre-emptive strike against the medium-range missile batteries, which could strike Israel as well as Iran.

The New York Times said Tuesday Washington was trying to persuade Saudi Arabia to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to prove it did not intend to acquire nuclear warheads for the missiles.

According to the Times, administration officials said such a signature would have two effects.

On Monday, a bipartisan group

One would be to give symbolic assurances to Israel, where some officials hinted of a pre-emptive strike against the missiles.

"Another would be to placate Congress, where opposition to military sales to Saudi Arabia is growing," the Times said.

It added that most Middle East countries, except Israel, Algeria and some smaller Gulf states had signed the treaty.

State Department spokesman Dennis Harter said the administration had made no decision on when to formally notify Congress of the arms sales, but that officials were "doing some consultations" on the proposal, particularly since there has been some evidence of congressional concern.

The Washington Post, citing unidentified State Department sources, said that despite the delay in giving formal notice of the sale, the administration was inclined to continue pressing for the sale, because "effective functioning of the AWACS planes is in the U.S. interest."

Support for Iran embargo said weakening

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — United Nations Security Council support for a proposed arms embargo against Iran has diminished since last week's clashes in the Gulf between U.S. and Iranian forces, U.S. officials said Monday.

Only Britain, France and the United States were strongly endorsing the embargo and support among the 12 other council members seems to have weakened further since the U.S. navy sank or disabled six Iranian war vessels in the Gulf a week ago, they said.

It also destroyed two Iranian oil rigs in retaliation for the mine explosion that booted a U.S. frigate and wounded its crew April 14.

After the attacks, the United States sent messages to the Security Council urging members again to support the arms embargo, which Washington has pushed for eight months as a means to force Iran to halt its eight-year-old war with Iraq.

"The response has been less than enthusiastic," said one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified.

"People are concerned what Iran's reaction might be," he said, adding: "I think people are waiting to see how the dust is going to settle."

The Soviet Union, which with China, the United States, Britain and France compose the council's five permanent members, has been the main obstacle to the

proposed arms embargo resolution, designed to enforce a council cease-fire order approved last July.

Secretary of State George Shultz discussed the matter with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last week but made little apparent headway.

One U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said Moscow apparently was concerned sup-

port for the arms embargo could provoke two million Afghan re-

fugees living in Iran and pro-Iranians in Afghanistan to undermine a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

China was also told the United States does not want to move on an arms embargo at this time, U.S. officials said.

China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that reports it had changed its stance towards an Iran arms embargo were groundless.

The ministry, in a short statement, said: "This report is groundless. Our position remains unchanged."

U.S. drops effort to turn Swiss decision

BERNE (R) — The United States said Tuesday it has given up attempts to reverse the appointment of Iranian ambassador to Switzerland of a man:

believed to be the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said Washington was "deeply disappointed" at the appointment of Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Malak, but it had agreed to regard the matter as closed.

Authorities in the region of Lazio, which includes the city of Rome, said health officials inspected the grapefruits in one Rome supermarket after a newspaper received a warning telephone call.

Regional Health Director Vincenzo Ziantoni, who ordered the immediate confiscation of all grapefruits from Roman markets, said the precise origin of the poisoned fruit had not been determined but it was presumed to be from Israel.

Regional authorities issued a statement warning people not to eat grapefruit. They said the poisoned samples had been deliberately injected with a bright

blue substance which killed mice instantly in tests.

The poison showed up in tests on grapefruit samples after several threats to poison Israeli fruit were made to newspapers and Italian authorities in the last week.

Ziantoni said police had received a claim of responsibility from a "revolutionary group" Tuesday but neither he nor police headquarters in Rome gave further details.

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Last week the United States protested at Switzerland's decision to accredit Malak, saying it had evidence he had been a leader of those who took 52 Americans hostage nine years ago.

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Jordanian industrialists fall victims to financial debacle

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is presently considering alternatives to finance Jordanian private sector exports to Iraq following a recent Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) decision to stop financing these exports for exceeding trade exchange quotas defined by a Jordanian-Iraqi protocol, industrial and banking sources told the Jordan Times.

The decision by the CBJ, which has informally relayed its decision to Jordanian exporters near the end of last month, came after several industrial firms were already implicated with irrevocable, often long-term unconfirmed letters of credit and had already exported large quantities of manufactured goods.

Some of the letters of credit (LC) were opened by Iraqi public and private sector importers at the Iraqi Central Bank, payable after two years by the CBJ. The decision to stop financing these LCs covers all including exports made nearly two years ago and payable this or next year.

CJB Deputy Governor Maher Shukri declined comment, but well-placed sources told the Jordan Times the \$450 million annual quota for Jordanian exports to Iraq was realised after the first three months of this year.

The sources said the value of exports of manufactured goods to Iraq has reached nearly three times the specified quota, forcing the CBJ to stop "financing all industrial Jordanian exports."

The CBJ decision sent shares of industrial companies at the Amman Financial Market plunging an average between 10 and 15 per cent over the past six weeks, threatening more decline if the government did not act promptly, according to local manufacturers.

Industry and Trade Ministry

Under-Secretary Mohammad Saqqaf reportedly visited Iraq two weeks ago during which he discussed the problem with Iraqi officials. No details were officially reported.

Enforcing regulations

The CBJ finances Jordanian exports as a form of payment for imports of Iraqi oil and other products under the trade protocol agreement.

Jordan imports 75 per cent of its oil needs from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia.

Last year Jordan exported JD 60 million worth of manufactured goods to Iraq.

One of the reasons behind the sharp increase of Iraqi imports from Jordan is an Iraqi government decision this year to allow the private sector to import from the Kingdom along with the public sector. Other reasons include claims that non-manufacturing Jordanian companies had been importing manufactured products from other countries and selling them to Iraq through Jordan, after labelling and packaging them as Jordanian products with a certain percentage of added value.

Manufacturers asserted that the Ministry of Industry and Trade was not enforcing regulations against such practices.

Some Jordanian manufacturers

had already obtained from the CBJ 60 per cent of the value of an export order to Iraq to pay for raw materials to manufacture these goods. Many of the manufacturers, whom the bulk of their exports go to Iraq, are now stuck with the raw materials or with large quantities of products in stock.

Some of these products were designed for the Iraqi market or labelled with names of certain Iraqi companies that they could not be easily reexported to other markets.

"The Central Bank (of Jordan) discovered the crisis one and a half months ago and stopped financing exports," economist Fahed Fanek told the Jordan Times. "It announced it was not committed to pay more than the part agreed upon with the Iraqi government, unless an agreement on this is reached with Iraq."

He contended that foreign reserves at the CBJ may not be enough to cover the exports in excess of the agreed quota.

The Iraqi government does not finance the private sector.

"This is a problem for banks which financed the letters of credit and a problem for industrial companies which have ordered raw materials to produce goods that may not be exported." He said that share prices of these companies at the Amman Financial Market declined around 10 per cent since first informal reports of the crisis broke out.

Dr. Fanek wondered: "How can matters reach this point before they are discovered and stopped?"

Lack of information

Manufacturers interviewed by the Jordan Times said the concerned government authorities were not keeping them informed about the size of the problem or

about the government's plans to solve it.

"It's a catastrophe," one manufacturer said describing the situation. "Some of the companies are manufacturing solely for Iraq."

He said that a failure to solve

the problem may result in "destroying all what we have achieved in the field of industry over the past five years."

Iraq is currently one of the largest market for Jordanian private manufacturers.

The manufacturer, who asked not to be named, called on the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Chamber of Industry to meet with industrial officials in order to discuss "a way out of this present dilemma."

He said that "continuing to behave as if there was no problem is suicidal," he pointed out to the decline in industrial companies' share prices and the possibility of seriously hurting the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

Another manufacturer said that signals that copies of letters of credit for exports were received simultaneously by the CBJ and that the central bank could have easily averted the problem before it grows to the present proportions, had there been a simple monitoring system.

"How come we were not told that the size of exports was accelerating towards exceeding the quotas," he asked. "This country cannot afford mistakes like these."

"Last year," he continued, "Jordan was becoming an industrialist's dream. 'Why threatened it with such a fiasco?'

They expressed hope that the government would act immediately to explain the situation and involve manufacturers in the process of negotiating a settlement to the situation which arose from the CBJ's move.

Joint Egyptian-Jordanian company develops plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan-Egyptian Investment Development Company (JEIDC) is currently involved in setting up a company to produce lean meat, a fishing company, a tourism corporation and a company to produce seeds and fodder, according to Midhat Abdul Aziz, under-secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Abdul Aziz, who is on a visit to Jordan, told Al Dustour Arabic newspaper that the projects were planned to meet the Egyptian and Jordanian needs of meat, fish, fodder and seeds and to boost the tourism industry in both countries.

The joint company will be set up in Aqaba and southern Sinai and will carry out a wide scale programme to market the two regions' tourist attractions.

At least \$40 million will be spent on the joint tourism projects, Abdul Aziz said.

Officials explain reasons for high food prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian markets have been witnessing a shortage of fresh vegetables and fruits since the beginning of April largely due to exports of these commodities to Lebanon and France, according to Maen Abdul Qader, deputy director of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO).

Abdul Qader said that Jordan had drawn up contracts to barter its vegetables with apples brought in from France and Lebanon and has been exporting considerable quantities of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants and marrows to the two countries.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper which reflected JAMPCO's views also quoted Ministry of Supply's Secretary-General Abdulla Al Hawamdeh as saying that more fruits and vegetables will be found in the

local markets as of the coming week due to the ripening of the summer crops in Jordan.

Hawamdeh said that the past winter brought in heavy rains and unexpected damage to a number of crops rendering low level production and a subsequent soaring prices.

In the past week, the price of a kilogramme of tomatoes was about 300 to 430 fils; marrows, 230-300 fils; beans, 320-400 fils and cucumbers 250-380 fils, according to the report.

JAMPCO takes charge of importing certain types of vegetables and fruits which cannot be produced in Jordan or which are in short supply.

Over the past years it has been able to draw up contracts for the importation of apples, onions and potatoes, and has marketed Jordan's agricultural crops in European and Arab countries.

U.S. economy gains

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy, largely shrugging off the blow of October's stock market crash, grew at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent in the first three months of the year, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

The figure was in line with private economists' expectations of 2.0 to 2.5 per cent growth.

Although the expansion in gross national product (GNP), the total value of goods and services, was less than the 4.8 per cent rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 1987, economists said it should put to rest any lingering fears that Wall Street's slump on Oct. 19 might lead to an election-year recession.

The 2.3 per cent growth rate, which is adjusted for inflation and seasonal variations, is a preliminary estimate that will be revised twice in the coming months as the government collects fresh data.

The Commerce Department said the GNP deflator, an important inflation gauge which measures the price of a basket of goods and services, rose at a 2.4 per cent annual rate between January and March.

That was less than the 3.0 per cent rate economists had predicted and was slower than the 2.7 per cent inflation rate of the fourth quarter of 1987.

Moderate growth

Taken together, the reports paint a picture of an economy that was still growing moderately in the early part of the year without generating excessive inflation, economists said.

Despite the huge U.S. trade deficit and fears that price pressures will intensify, most economists expect the good times to continue at least through November's presidential election.

The White House is forecasting 2.4 per cent growth this year, while the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, is predicting between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent.

If the economy stays strong, political analysts say, Democratic calls for sweeping economic policy changes could strike voters as unnecessarily risky and Vice President George Bush's chances of retaining the White House for the Republicans would get a boost.

Bush has closely identified

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 26, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	172865	JD 162476	232
Top three companies:	51240	JD 52258	14
Arab Life Insurance	24500	JD 28443	63
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	15200	JD 19760	4
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	94533	JD 45301	—
Paralleled market:	50	JD 500	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	5	JD 563	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8785/95	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2292/2302	Canadian dollar
	1.6720/30	Deutschmarks
	1.8753/58	Dutch guilders
	1.3827/37	Swiss francs
	34.9699	Belgian francs
	5.6800/30	French francs
	1243/1244	Italian lire
	124.45/55	Japanese yen
	5.8655/8705	Swedish crowns
	6.1740/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.4340/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.40/448.80	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed slightly firmer in lacklustre trading following the Monday Anzac Day holiday. The All Ordinaries Index rose 4.3 to 1,441.1.

TOKYO Prices rose 33.32 on the Nikkei Index to close at a record 27,246.77 on incentive-backed buying, but the market mood was cautious with profit-taking tempering gains.

HONG KONG — Prices closed weaker on increased selling, with overseas investors concerned over local trade performance.

PARIS — Prices ended sharply higher, boosted by foreign buying and renewed takeover speculation. Volume was moderate and the 50-share bourse indicator ended 2.56 per cent up.

ZURICH — Prices closed higher after food company Nestle SA announced a £2.1 billion takeover bid for all outstanding shares of British sweets maker Rowntree PLC.

LONDON — Shares were buoyed by renewed speculative interest after news of the offer for Rowntree by Nestle. At 1505 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 21 points up at 1,798.6.

NEW YORK — Prices were higher in quiet trading after rising on a moderate 2.3 per cent increase in first quarter GNP. The Dow 30 index was up 17 at 2,053.

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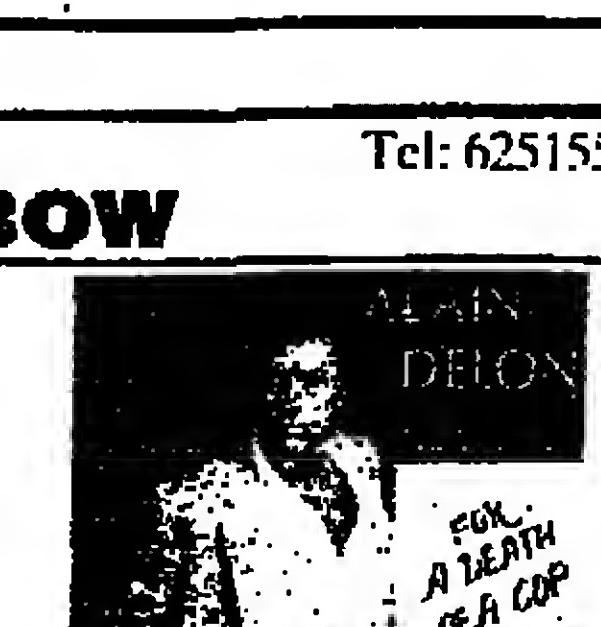


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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 1988 7

SPORTS IN BRIEF

American woman set to conquer Himalayas

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — American long-distance runner Mary Margaret Goodwin arrived in Katmandu ten days behind schedule Monday, but said she is still determined to continue with her bid to be the first woman to complete the 32,000 kilometres Trans-Himalayan Run. "Although I'm ten days behind schedule, I will catch up," said Goodwin, shortly after she emerged from the woods with her pet dog, Velia. She said she had broken her foot two weeks earlier and will have to see a doctor Tuesday. "But there is nothing which will prevent me. I will continue" the run, Goodwin, 50, declared. Goodwin, from Ft. Lewis, Washington, started out from Darjeeling, India, and travelled 640 kilometres before reaching the Nepalese capital over six weeks later with her two-year-old German shorthair pointer. She said she had been trying to break a 1984 record set by two British brothers, Adrian and Dick Crane, in which they completed the Trans-Himalayan Run in 92 days.

Kenyan skips to win Rome marathon

ROME (AP) — Sam N'gatia of Kenya raced past the colosseum and other glories left from ancient Rome to win a city marathon Monday in two hours, 16 minutes and 46 seconds. The Kenyan beat out runner-up Osvaldo Faustini, an Italian plumber who runs for a hobby, by nine seconds. The first woman to finish was Fabiola Paletti, of Italy, in 2:48:45. Recent marathons in Boston, London and Rotterdam shaved the field of top names for the Rome event on a breezy, sunny afternoon. Traffic was blocked off from the center for the race, whose 4,000 participants were cheered on by thousands of Romans and tourists enjoying the capital on a national holiday, liberation day.

Italy to field youngsters against Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Manager Azeglio Vicini will look to youth Wednesday when Italy continues its preparation for June's European Soccer Championships with a friendly international against Luxembourg. Vicini is clearly using the match as a chance to experiment with younger players having omitted veterans like Alessandro Altobelli and Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni from his 18-strong squad. The pair are expected to be recalled for the championships in West Germany, but Vicini is hoping Luxembourg will provide a gentle test for several young players, including promising 19-year-old defender Paolo Maldini, who could be candidates for first team places in the 1990 cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THERE'S MANY A SLIP

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	EAST
♦ A 10 7 6	5
♦ K Q 9 8	
♦ Q J 5 4	
♦ K 3 2	♦ A 9 8 7 6 4

WEST	SOUTH
♦ Q J 2	♦ K 9 8 4 3
♦ 5 4 3 2	♦ J 10 7 6
♦ 3 9 3 2	♦ A K
♦ K 3 2	♦ 10 5

The bidding: South: West: North: East: 1 ♦ Pass: 2 NT: 3 ♦; 4 ♦ Pass: Pass: Pass. Opening lead: Two of ♦.

The annual Hocchst team tournament in The Hague draws strong squads from all over the world. A combined U.S.-Canada group was lucky to get away unscathed on this hand from their match against a powerful Dutch lineup. North's jump to no trump was the equivalent of a forcing raise of South's one spade opening. East seized the opportunity for a master bid. He wanted a heart lead, so he bid three hearts. (Had he been doubled, he would have retreated to four clubs.) South's jump to game, according to the principle of fast arrival, showed a minimum opening bid with no interest in slam.

West duly led a heart. East took his ace and found the excellent return of the nine of clubs, and the stage was set for East-West to win the award for the best defense of the year. All that remained was for West to win the king of clubs and return a heart to ensure a one-trick set.

Win the king of clubs West did, but he fell asleep at the switch and shifted to a diamond. A delighted declarer conceded a trump trick and claimed 10 tricks.

We don't know what went on in West's head. If his partner had a real heart suit, dummy's holding and declarer's contribution of a heart at trick one would have meant that East had overcalled at the three-level on a four-card suit headed by the ace-jack. If that had been the case, we would have suggested that West find a new partner. Considering the defense, we proffer that advice to East instead.

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Hopes to normalise relations with U.S.

Panama's new cabinet begins to tackle crisis

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The nation's civilian chief executive met with new cabinet members and other advisers Monday in a renewed effort to find a way to resolve a steadily deteriorating financial and political crisis.

Pledging to keep the nation on a capitalist course, Manuel Solis Palma named seven new ministers to his 12-member cabinet Sunday night, three of them to sensitive foreign and economic policy posts.

He said the chief task of his new team would be to reopen the nation's banks, closed since March 4 because of a lack of money to cover withdrawals by panicky depositors. He said he hoped that could be done within a week.

Several diplomats and other observers, insisting on anonymity, described the new appointees as technocrats without sharply defined political leanings.

Apparently seeking to still opposition fears, Solis Palma, considered a leftist, said he had no plans to interfere with private business or industry or to put Panama on a socialist path.

The first task of his new education minister, Solis Palma joked,

Howe unveils British anti-hijacking plan

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called Monday for the creation of an international "anti-terrorist" body to fight air piracy.

His suggestion is a part of five-point British plan on the prevention of hijacking to be presented to a meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Tuesday.

Howe told a news conference the proposal has received a "positive response" after preliminary debates by the foreign ministers of the European Economic Community.

He said the community's own group of "anti-terrorist" experts, set up in January 1986, will meet soon to draw conclusions from the recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti jetliner.

"There are important lessons to be learned" from the hijacking, Howe said.

The British plan, among other things, recommends the creation of a permanent "stand-by" group of experts within ICAO to help governments in the case of hijacking.

It also calls on ICAO to study the feasibility of international guidelines for airport security.

S. Africa to oppose bid to reopen 'Six' trial

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government said Monday it would oppose the reopening of the trial of the Sharpeville Six, five South African men and a woman condemned to hang in connection with a 1984 murder.

Peter Van Zyl, registrar of the supreme court in Pretoria, told Reuters the attorney general's office gave formal notice Monday of its intention to oppose an application to reopen the case.

Krakash Diar, attorney for the six, applied formally last week to have the trial reopened so that he could re-examine Manete and the state said in a routine response Monday that it would fight the application.

solve Panama's problems unless it comes about as part of a "dialogue" with the opposition.

"Let's suppose Gen. Noriega would leave today," Ritter said in an interview. "Would banks open immediately? No. Would all the private companies go back in business? No. Would all the people who lost their jobs because the U.S. froze Panamanian assets get their jobs back? No."

Ritter said he uncertain how to go about mending relations with the United States.

Ritter, who replaces Jorge Abadía as foreign minister, was to return to Panama Tuesday.

"It's not in the interest of the United States or Panama to keep this awkward relationship for long," he said.

Ritter said he is uncertain how to go about mending relations with the United States.

"We have to get together and talk about it, but it's a very complicated thing," Ritter said. "I myself don't know exactly what's going to happen."

The new foreign minister urged the opposition to agree to an open-ended "national dialogue" that would include negotiations for Noriega's resignation.

Dukakis has campaigned non-stop with a message that he can return jobs to steel and other U.S. industries suffering hard times, particularly in Pennsylvania. He has sent workers through the state distributing campaign literature and urging that they vote for the 178 nominating delegates at stake.

Similarly, Jackson sent cars with loudspeakers urging a vote for their man through the streets of Philadelphia.

Dukakis campaigned with a "good jobs, good wages" message as he criss-crossed the state's towns where steel mills now sit idle.

And in Washington, an opposition leader said a group of Panamanian dissidents plans to undertake a military operation against Noriega by the beginning of next week.

The new ministers replace officials Solis Palma inherited when he was named to replace deposed president Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations Panama's new foreign minister said that his top priority would be normalising relations with the United States and persuading it to lift crippling economic sanctions his country.

Jorge E. Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations for the past 14 months, also said Noriega's departure will not

be to dismantle what he called the "national council of rumours." It had been widely rumoured that his new appointees would be leftist ideologues.

"We are a capitalist group being attacked by other capitalists," Solis Palma told a news conference shortly after introducing his new cabinet members.

He also rejected earlier descriptions in state-run newspapers of his new government team as a "war cabinet."

Solis Palma said he remained willing to talk with opponents, but not if they persist in demanding the prior resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the military strongman generally recognised as Panama's de facto leader.

Solis Palma also said Mexico is preparing to send petroleum, some raw materials and possibly medicine to help economically pressed Panama. It would be the first such agreement made since the start of the crisis.

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Dukakis poised to win in Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Voters in Pennsylvania's presidential primary election appeared likely to give Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis a sweeping victory on Tuesday over black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson for the Democratic nomination.

At the same time Vice-President George Bush was expected to finally secure the Republican nomination by gaining more than the number of delegates he needs to clinch it at the party's convention.

Opinion polls showed Dukakis holding a large lead over the black activist who is his only rival, and Dukakis supporters said their greatest fear was apathy.

Bush set to clinch it

Bush, with only token opposition from religious broadcaster and businessman Pat Robertson, should easily top the 1,139 delegates needed to secure his party's nomination.

He now has 1,097 delegate votes, according to estimates by the NBC Television Network, and should have no trouble winning the 96 delegates at stake in Pennsylvania.

The court could decide to declare the law unconstitutional. Justice Anthony Kennedy,

Court to reconsider key civil rights ruling

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court has caused an uproar among civil rights groups by deciding to reconsider a key ruling giving blacks the same rights as whites in private jobs and other private activities.

The nation's high court, in a 5-4 vote, said Monday it would consider overturning its 1976 decision that has been one of its most important civil rights rulings giving blacks equality with whites.

The 12-year-old decision upheld a well-established post-Civil War law which prohibited racial discrimination in all private contracts. It called for stiff penalties for violators, including the payment of punitive damages.

The law covers a wide range of private activities, including employment, housing and education, and offers broader protection than more recently enacted civil rights measures.

The case involved a black woman, Brenda Patterson, who sought punitive damages from her employer for alleged on-the-job racial harassment at a credit union in North Carolina.

Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "It shows that the Supreme Court, with its new justice, is open to do business on

newly appointed to the bench by President Reagan, provided the pivotal fifth vote for the conservative bloc members who wanted to review the 1976 ruling.

The Supreme Court has been deadlocked for years between liberal and conservative factions on civil rights cases and the Reagan administration's controversial drive against affirmative action programme for women and minorities.

Civil rights groups denounced the Supreme Court's action to order re-argument, noting that not even the parties in the case had asked that the 1976 decision be overturned.

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Justice John Paul Stevens warned that the majority's action would rouse concern among those who must rely on the federal civil rights laws for protection against private discrimination.

established civil rights matters. It shows a hostility toward settled principles of civil rights law."

Lawyers at the NAACP Legal Defence Fund, which is involved in the case, expressed surprise that the Supreme Court would review a call for increased civil rights enforcement.

"At a loss"

The decision to review the case also stirred angry dissent by some of the justices and brought into the open the sharp differences on the bench.

"I am at a loss to understand the motivation of five members of this court to reconsider an interpretation of a civil rights statute that so clearly reflects our society's earnest commitment to ending racial discrimination," Justice Harry Blackmun said.

Justice John Paul Stevens warned that the majority's action would rouse concern among those who must rely on the federal civil rights laws for protection against private discrimination.

COLUMN 8

Walls come tumbling down

BERLIN (AP) — Part of the original Berlin Wall collapsed into the French section of West Berlin, police said Monday. Police said the 16-metre section of the wall that forms the boundary between Communist East Berlin and West Berlin fell into the western Reinickendorf district, which is under French military control. East Germany had already built a new, four-metre-high wall of reinforced concrete behind the crumbling brick barrier. West Berlin police said. Most of the original barriers built to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West have been replaced by new concrete walls and steel fences.

Seems juries like nice teeth

DECATUR, Georgia (AP) — A jury was chosen Monday for the retrial of a man charged in the killings of six members of a farm family in 1973, and a defence lawyer then asked that his client be fitted for dentures to improve his image. Judge Hugh Lawson heard the petition on behalf of defendant Wayne Carl Coleman and said he would rule later on that and another defence request that the trial be moved. "We think he will present a less favourable image to this jury" without the dentures, argued Coleman's attorney, Thomas West.

Cracking down on kinky calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, confronted with its first "dial-a-porn" case, Monday let stand a ban on sexually explicit telephone dial-up message services in Arizona. The court was confronted for the first time with the constitutionality of attempts to bar companies from offering sexually explicit dial-up telephone messages. The justices, without comment, refused to hear arguments that the ban in the state of Arizona violates free-speech rights. Mountain Bell, the telephone company for Arizona, in 1985 announced a policy banning all firms who "provide adult entertainment messages with sexually oriented content" from using special phone numbers that levy an extra charge on the caller. The charges vary from 50 cents to several dollars per minute. Most messages are prerecorded, but some companies have operators who talk to customers. The court's action comes at a time when Congress, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and state governments have taken steps to crack down on dial-a-porn companies. Congress last week sent to the president a bill that would ban all dial-a-porn services. The FCC last week levied \$600,000 in fines against two California dial-a-porn firms accused of failing to prevent children from hearing their messages.

Heroic bird succumbs to teflon fumes

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) — An African gray parrot alerted her owner by calling out his name when a teflon-coated pan caught fire, but died from the fumes after the fire was put out. Chris Barnes, a college student, said 7-year-old Coco died exactly one year after his mother gave him the bird as a birthday gift. Barnes, 21, who shares a house with five other students in Boulder, said one roommate left a pot of water on the stove early Saturday that boiled away when the roommate fell asleep. He said he heard Coco screaming, then calling his name. He got up and found the kitchen filled with smoke and the teflon lining of the pot afame. Barnes said he put out the fire and Coco, nearby, appeared all right. Minutes later, he said, he found Coco dead in her cage. Coco, valued at \$1,000, could whistle the theme from the movie "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," and had a life expectancy of more than 100 years. Veterinarian William Dernell said Coco's death is typical of other bird deaths involving teflon cookware. He said an Illinois veterinarian has found that burning teflon on cookware can release noxious fumes that cause respiratory arrest in birds. "It doesn't take much," Dernell said.

The camp is designed to look like a rustic Western mining town, much like one in the film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," in which Newman starred. It is closely associated with Yale-New Haven Medical Centre and will provide medical facilities, Hotchner said. It is open to children from ages 7 to 17, who will attend free.

Newman and Hotchner are seeking individual and corporate donations to help with the cost and endowment of the camp. At the groundbreaking ceremony, actress Joanne Woodward, married to Newman for 30 years, "summed up the camp as just one he's had in a long and he's had many."

Monkey drunk

SAFED, Israel (R) — A monkey who had a few cocktails too many went berserk in an Israeli hotel and was "detained" briefly by police. Police said his owner, who bought the round and shared it with the monkey, was also briefly held for drunken behaviour.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Britain announces go-ahead for 4-nation fighter

LONDON (AP) — Britain said Monday it would proceed with the four-nation European fighter aircraft, an ambitious example of the kind of defence collaboration among the Western allies that has proved difficult in the past. British officials expect defence ministers from West Germany, Spain and Italy to ratify the project at a May 11 meeting in Hanover, West Germany. The first of the 800 aircraft in the £30-billion (\$37.4-billion) project are to come into service in 1996. British Defence Secretary George Younger, in a statement to parliament, said London's decision depended on agreement by the three other countries, adding he expected their announcements "shortly."

50,000 blacks in white Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG (R) — About 50,000 black South Africans have moved into areas of Johannesburg designated for whites in the past two years in defiance of apartheid race laws, an anti-segregation group said Monday. The influx has been caused by housing shortages in black areas and by people determined to dismantle the apartheid law, the Group Areas Act, which decrees where people live according to their skin colour, the organisation said. The organisation, called Actstop, called a news conference to publicise the plight of blacks who move into Johannesburg. Because of their illegal status, many blacks live an uncertain and persecuted existence. Actstop said in a statement. They are charged higher rents than whites and are often evicted at a moment's notice. The blacks live in so-called "grey areas," an arc of neighbourhoods around central Johannesburg whose populations have gradually become racially mixed.

Soviet Union preparing law on glasnost

VIENNA (R) — The Soviet Union is drafting new laws to guarantee continuation of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies, two Soviet officials said Monday. Yelena Lukashova, a jurist with the Institute of State and Law of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, told a news conference in Vienna that a law to strengthen glasnost (openness) had been prepared by the institute and submitted to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. It would guarantee that work of all state institutions will be accessible to all citizens and give them the right "to know about any event in the state or in the world," she said. It would also grant citizens the right to freely express opinions and learn how the state had responded to proposals they might have made. Fyodor Burlatsky, head of the Soviet Union's Commission on Human Rights, said the law on glasnost was being prepared together with a law governing the media. "This law (on glasnost) should be one of the guarantees of the irreversibility of perestroika," he said of the national reconstruction process promoted by Gorbachev.

Dole, Byrd squabble over INF approval

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole urged the Senate Monday to ratify the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile treaty before next month's Moscow summit. He appealed to senators to avoid "leaping into positions adversarial to our president." But his Democratic rival, Senate Majority leader Robert Byrd, told Dole: "I will not be rushed or harried." Byrd vowed not to schedule debate on the treaty until outstanding issues have been dealt with, including determining whether or not the Soviet Union agrees that the pact bans such "Star Wars" weapons as those using laser beams or particle beam generators. President Ronald Reagan has said he will be hamstrung during his meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and unable to make further arms control progress if the Senate has not ratified the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) accord by that time. The summit is scheduled for May 29-June 2. Dole said the president deserves to be accommodated. Byrd replied: "I want to accommodate the president too and I will accommodate the Senate and our responsibilities under the Constitution first, before any other person or office. And the people down at the White House had better understand that."

Zhao says Tibetan separatists will fail

PEKING (AP) — Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang said Monday in a reference to Tibet that China will deal forcefully with separatist movements, which he said are doomed to failure. "Nowadays, a very small number of people are attempting to split our motherland," Zhao said at a conference of 4,000 people representing China's 56 nationalities. "It is not difficult to see that they are not representing the interests of our people, and they are only the agents of some anti-Chinese foreign forces. Their vain attempt of splitting China cannot possibly be realised." Buddhist monks loyal to Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, led pro-independence riots in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa last September and October and again March 5.

New unit to deal with nuclear emergencies

MOSCOW (AP) — The government has formed a new organisation to deactivate aging Soviet nuclear power reactors and tackle emergencies such as the accident two years ago at the Chernobyl station. The organisation, called Spetsatom, is based in Pripyat, a town five kilometres from the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Republic of the Ukraine, the news agency TASS reported Monday. Spetsatom is to handle the mothballing of 20 Soviet nuclear plants. TASS said Spetsatom got experience dealing with nuclear accidents in the April 26, 1986, explosion and fire at Chernobyl. "As a result of this tragedy we have acquired vast experience which no other country has," Yuri K. Semyonov, deputy head of the commission grappling with the Chernobyl aftermath, told a news conference last Wednesday.

60m in retail sales

Today, Newman's Own Inc is fast becoming a food empire with new products each year and sales throughout the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, the Far East and Australia. Last year, the company racked up \$60 million in retail sales here and abroad. But what makes this off-beat company most extraordinary is that Newman and Hotchner, neither of whom takes a salary, give all its profits to charity.